

DMH EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT – ERIKA STANFORD

Continuing our stories that spotlight LACDMH employees who shine, this week we're featuring...



ERIKA STANFORD

Secretary III, DMH GENESIS/FACTS FCCS Older Adult Program

Erika Stanford has worked for the County of Los Angeles for over 15 years. Fourteen of those years have been with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH).

As a Secretary III for the Program Head of the GENESIS/FACTS FCCS Older Adult Program, she is responsible for scheduling meetings, setting up conferences and trainings. She also assists with the field-based staff of over 30 clinicians. Her responsibilities include gathering information for special reports, keeping track of plans and project execution. Erika serves as the payroll liaison, responsible for the slush fund. And, from time to time, she will assist the Deputy Director and District Chief with special projects, and help FACTS staff in the San Pedro sister office.

Lastly, she's the unit's party coordinator. Erika admits, "I throw the best bashes ever!"

What do you like about your job? "I love everything about my job. I always say, 'It matters who you work for and who you work with.' I have the absolute greatest boss in the world and the rest of the staff are equally awesome...we are truly a family here. They support me as I do each one of them. I love what this program stands for and the great work that everyone here does – and what we do for the community of older adults and their families. When you love what you do, it's never work. I NEVER feel as though I'm coming to work!"

Who/what inspires you? “The clients inspire me. We deal with a very unique population. When I hear the accolades and the relief in the family’s voice because a client has received beneficial services and has gotten the help that they need, it inspires me to do more, to do better and to work harder, in hopes that every client gets exemplary services.”

What quote inspires you? “My favorite inspirational quote is from Maya Angelou: ‘Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud.’ This is my everyday goal.”

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? “In my spare time, I like to do yoga (HUGE stress reliever), dance, try new places to eat, laugh (it’s my favorite) and spend time with my family, especially my daughter. She’s at UCLA and I don’t get to see her very much. So, my time with her is precious.”

Any words of wisdom for other DMH employees? “Take care of yourself FIRST! It’s the most important thing you can do. There’s no way that you’ll be good to anyone else if you’re not good to yourself. Be well, eat right and stay positive.”